



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

May 26, 2006

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 55. The bill provides immunity from civil liability to private campground owners, operators, and their employees or agents for property damage, personal injury and death if the damage, injury or death is the proximate result of the act or omission of a person other than the owner, operator, employee or agent.

I strongly support Wisconsin's tourism industry and recognize the importance of the businesses – including private campgrounds – that provide recreational opportunities in this state. Assembly Bill 55, however, is simply unnecessary. Granting immunity from all civil liability, including reckless and malicious conduct, is a very serious step. I am aware of no evidence suggesting that private campgrounds are the targets of unfair lawsuits, and there is simply no justification for granting blanket immunity to this special class of businesses.

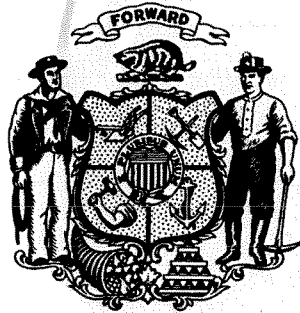
Moreover, Assembly Bill 55 appears to immunize private campground owners whose negligent or reckless conduct contributes to an injury. That's not fair. Wisconsin's visitors and residents expect to stay at fun, relaxing and safe lodging facilities, whether they're hotels, resorts or campgrounds. We shouldn't be enacting laws that remove existing incentives to provide the safest, most enjoyable experience for visitors. And we shouldn't be statutorily immunizing negligent and reckless conduct for a special class of businesses.

Wisconsin is a wonderful place to vacation, and we have a responsibility to ensure that all visitors and residents have a safe and enjoyable stay.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE
Governor

State of Wisconsin



2005 Assembly Bill 55

Date of enactment:
Date of publication*:

2005 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT *to create* 895.523 of the statutes; **relating to:** immunity of private campground owners and operators.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 895.523 of the statutes is created to read:

895.523 Liability exemption; private campgrounds. (1) In this section:

(a) "Private campground" means a facility that is issued a campground permit under s. 254.47 and that is owned and operated by someone other than a public agency.

(b) "Public agency" has the meaning given in s. 66.0825 (3) (h).

(2) The owner or operator of a private campground and the employees and agents of the owner or operator are immune from civil liability for damage to property or for the death of or injury to an individual if that damage, death, or injury is a proximate result of the acts or omissions of a person other than the owner or operator of the campground or the employees and agents of the owner or operator.

SECTION 2. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to acts or omissions that occur on the effective date of this subsection.

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES 2003-04 : Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication as designated" by the secretary of state [the date of publication may not be more than 10 working days after the date of enactment].